

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Community Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2009

Media Contact: Mary Chance, Director

Department of Community Services at 410-638-3389

### **Free Mediation and Facilitation Services Available** *Through Harford County Department of Community Services*

(March 3, 2009 – Bel Air, MD) The Harford County Community Mediation Program (HCCMP) announced today that it is positioned to take on more referrals for mediation and to offer trained mediators for Large Group Facilitation in the community. HCCMP is a program within the Harford County Department of Community Services which provides free mediation services to the citizens of Harford County.

**What is mediation?** Mediation is a voluntary and confidential alternative for parties involved in a dispute. Trained mediators will guide parties through an informal process that helps those involved to identify the issues and generate their own resolutions. Mediators are neutral and do not take sides or tell you what to do. Types of disputes that can be mediated are:

Neighborhood Disputes - noise, property, community or animal issues

Intrapersonal/Family Disputes - parent/teen conflicts, siblings, friends and guardianship issues

Business Disputes - employee/employer, owner/customer

Landlord/Tenant - HOAs, neighborhood conflicts

**Large Group Facilitation** can help a community, neighborhood or businesses who are trying to come to a consensus on decisions. During the process, two neutral co-facilitators will help identify the affected stakeholders, plan and design one or a series of meetings to explore the situation and assist the parties to generate options for solutions.

Note: HCCMP does not mediate divorces, custody disputes or domestic violence.

For more information about HCCMP, call Susan Fisher, Community Mediation Coordinator, at 410-638-4807 or visit [www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/mediation](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/mediation).

( more )

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The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, local and private agencies to ensure our county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for our citizens and community.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”